

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
SEPTEMBER 1996
TAG REVIEW DATE: 26 March 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** Holtville Target(BT)No.2(#95)

SITE NUMBER: J09CA017000

LOCATION:

City: Brawley
County: Imperial
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA017001

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 2

TAG RAC: 2

2. **POC's:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Holtville Target(BT)No.2(#95), consisting of 480 acres, 280 acres of which are FUDS eligible, is located in the southeast 1/4 of Section 9, the southwest 1/4 of Section 10, and the northwest 1/4 of Section 15 in Township 13 South, Range 16 East, thirteen and one-quarter miles north of the city of Brawley, Imperial County, California. Property for an access road to the site was also acquired(west 30 feet of

southwest 1/4 of Section 15, and the west 30 feet of the west 1/2 of Section 22, except the south 873 feet). The area is undeveloped except for sand and gravel excavation and storage operations in portions of Sections 9 and 15. Specifically, sand and gravel excavation activities were evident in the north 1/2 of Section 15; sand and gravel storage activities were evident in the southwest corner of the southeast 1/4 of Section 9. According to the INPR FDE, 280 acres and the access road are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and are therefore eligible for DERP-FUDS. The FDE states that there is a proposed Navy withdrawal of the remaining land in process and that a BLM representative still considers that land under Navy jurisdiction. Specifically, the Navy land consists of the north 1/2 and southeast 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of Section 10 (120 acres) and the east 1/2 of the northwest 1/4 of Section 15 (80 acres).

The site is located in the Imperial Valley which has a desert climate and records a higher percentage of sunshine than any other place in the United States. Topography ranges from flat to gently rising terrain in the area. The target area is relatively flat. Vegetation is sparse and low lying. Access is via Schoneman Road which is located at the western edge of Sections 22 and 15.

Most of the Imperial Valley is below sea level with Salton Sea water surface elevation at 228 feet below sea level. Fresh surface water is provided from an extensive network of canals for irrigation. Natural drainage occurs through washes, draws and gullies, which are dry in periods of no precipitation. These runoffs empty into rivers and canals. Flooding is unlikely because of the small amounts of precipitation and the porous nature of the sandy soils. Imperial Valley drains to the south. The Alamo River, New River, Western Main Canal, and Coachella Canal flow south into the All American Canal which flows east and empties into the Colorado River which flows south and empties into the Gulf of California.

4. SITE HISTORY: Available information indicates that in Letter Permit(s) dated 24 June 1943 and/or 23 May 1944, the Eleventh Naval District acquired approximately 480 acres from the Department of the Interior for use as a low-level rocket target. A concentric circle target was located on the property. No disposal information is available for this site. Historical documents indicate that in June 1946, this particular target was proposed to be retained.

Nearby air stations which could have utilized this bomb target are El Centro Marine Corps Air Station, Holtville Naval Auxiliary Air Station, and Salton Sea Auxiliary Air Station.

These sites stored and utilized a wide variety of ammunition for training missions, including various HE and practice bombs, various rockets, small arms ammunition and 20mm ammunition. The ASR states that while the site was actively utilized in the 1940's, it is possible that aircraft in more recent years may have occasionally jettisoned ordnance such as flares which land on the site. Specifically, the site survey team found various scrap and remnants showing evidence of 2.25" and/or 3.25" rockets, M-38 100-pound practice bombs, 500-pound practice bombs and flares.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Size, Acres:	280.00(See discussion of Acreage in paragraph 8 below).
Former Use:	Target Area for practice bombs and low-level rocket training
Present Use:	Undeveloped BLM property
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	M38 100-lb practice bombs;MK21 500-lb practice bombs;2.25" rockets, practice;3.25" rockets,practice; flares;small arms ammunition

6. CURRENT STATUS: The draft Archives Search Report for Holtville Target(BT)No.2(#95) was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in September 1996.

7. STRATEGY: EE/CA;(RAC 2)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The strategy is EE/CA with a RAC 2. The RAC form includes a value for complete rounds of small arms ammunition although the Draft ASR site survey team does not specifically state that they found these items at the site. However, the INPR does mention these items being found on location. The ASR and ASR RAC Form does not mention or include values for Medium/Large Caliber that is found in the INPR and INPR RAC. The site survey team states that they found evidence of rocket ammunition scattered throughout the area and that at the location of the bombing target with concentric rings as identified on a historical aerial photograph, they found evidence of 100 lb practice bombs scattered through the area. Therefore, all acreage for the site is to be considered for EE/CA.

HNC Safety Comment: The ASR has not been changed to agree with the comment to remove the misleading references to CWM in

paragraph 4.1.2 of the findings which could lead readers to believe that there is CWM at the site when it is not present.

Use of CWM: The ASR turned up no evidence that CWM was used at the site.

Acreage of the Site: The ASR consistently states that the acreage of the site is approximately 460 acres, which must be a typographical error. The ASR maps for the site show an area of 480 acres and the INPR indicates 480 acres plus additional for an access road which is supported by a document in the ASR dated 6 June 1946 from the Public Works Officer, Eleventh Naval District to Bureau of Docks.

Area of DERP-FUDS Eligibility: This should be determined prior to further action at the site. On the basis of a conversation with a BLM spokesperson, the INPR FDE indicates that 200 acres are still under the jurisdiction of the Navy and are not DERP-FUDS eligible. The eligible lands are therefore 280 acres and the access road property under BLM control. This is discussed more fully in the first paragraph of the Site Description above. However, in paragraph 5.4, page 5-1 of the ASR, conflicting statements are made regarding ownership based on various documents that the ASR writer saw, but copies of which are not included in the ASR.

Other Comments Regarding the ASR: In paragraphs 3.1 and 5.1 on pages 3-1 and 5-1 of the Findings, and paragraph 2.3.1 of page 2-3 in the Conclusions and Recommendations, the letter permit transfer dates for acquisition of 12 May 1944 and 24 June 1945 seemingly contradict the dates in the INPR FDE(24 June 1943 and/or 23 May 1944), which is supported by a document in the ASR dated 6 June 1946 from the Public Works Officer, Eleventh Naval District to Bureau of Docks.

Natural Resources: There are known Federally- and State-listed species which may occur within the site area. Listings are provided in the ASR Findings, page 3-6, paragraph 3.5. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: No cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only